

SECRET

30 JAN 1956

Chief, FE

Chief of Base, Pullach

INFO: COG/G
COG/A

Operational

Forschung (COG/G) (V-14 833)

REF: PULL 3070

1. As briefly described in reference ZIPPER has a new political operation in Vienna centered about V-14 833. V-14 833 is in contact with the press attaches of both the Rumanian and Polish Legations in Vienna. Apparently V-14 833 prepares items of interest to the particular press attache from the Western press and at the same time receives from each legation press releases on affairs inside Rumania and Poland. V-14 833 was formerly connected with the Oesterreicher Beobachter, an Austrian pro-Communist publication, and although he is not connected presently with this publication, this has no doubt made him acceptable to these Iron Curtain legations.

2. It has further been reported by ZIPPER that a certain Robert BECKER aka Erich DIER has contacted V-14 833 on the excuse that they should set up some sort of "zusammenarbeit" in the journalistic field. ZIPPER put a man on BECKER (probably V-14 830, as yet unidentified to POB) independently of V-14 833 who, according to ZIPPER, has been able to establish a close relationship with BECKER. This "Forscher" was told recently by BECKER that his real name was Robert VERHELEN van MARTIN not BECKER. It is now ZIPPER's opinion that VERHELEN/BECKER may be someone sent around by either the Soviets or the Rumanians and Poles to check on V-14 833 and if such is the case expect a promising CART operation to develop.

3. From traces so far it has been established that a Richard BECKER does exist and was employed by Soviet Censorship in 1946 (EOLA 2128). On the other hand, we have also established the existence of a Robert VERHELEN, a Belgian Fascist who was reported at Soviet agent training school in the DDR after the war. (PROB 2549) It is not entirely impossible that the Soviets trained VERHELEN after the war and sent him to Vienna under the name BECKER. However, as you can see, dates are somewhat of a problem. If BECKER was in Vienna with Soviet Censorship in 1946, then he must have attended the Soviet school in the DDR (as VERHELEN) before that time. This hypothesis was presented to ZIPPER by the undersigned with the proposal that we would try and clarify the date that VERHELEN was reported in the DDR. POB requests that Headquarters and COG/G help us on this point. POB will initiate a trace request to ☐ for available ☐ information on VERHELEN. ZIPPER is aware of this plan and concurs.

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4. Furthermore ZIPPER has reported that VERHELEN under the name BECKER may be employed with some Austrian Government Ministry. I suggested that they may want to check [] on this point, and it might help their relations with [] if they fingered an Eastern agent in the Austrian Government. ZIPPER agreed. I also stated that we had requested available information on the Rumanian and Polish Press Attaches in Vienna by way of operational support. This was requested of COS, Austria per reference. Further details will be reported as received. V-14 833 is identified in paragraph 2 of RUM 3063.

Approved by:

Distribution:

- ✓ 3 - KE
- 3 - COS/O
- 2 - COS/A

26 January 1956

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